

1    **1.** (original) A method of migrating from configuration  $m$  of a system to a configuration  
 2     $m+1$  thereof, the system's configuration being defined by first configuration tables in a  
 3    database and  
 4    the method comprising the steps performed by the system of:  
 5        making second configuration tables that define configuration  $m+1$ ;  
 6        making a determination whether the first configuration tables still define  
 7    configuration  $m$ ; and  
 8        if the first configuration tables still define configuration  $m$ , using the second  
 9    configuration tables to modify the first configuration tables such that the first  
 10   configuration tables define configuration  $m+1$ .

1    **2.** (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
 2        making a snapshot of the first configuration tables prior to making the second  
 3    configuration tables, the snapshot not being a copy of the first configuration tables but  
 4    permitting detection of changes in the first configuration tables; and  
 5        in the step of making a determination, the snapshot is used to make the  
 6    determination.

1    **3.** (original) The method set forth in claim 2 wherein:  
 2        the snapshot is compared with the first configuration tables.

1    **4.** (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein  
 2    the step of making second configuration tables comprises the steps of:  
 3        making a copy of the first configuration tables; and  
 4        modifying the copy.

1    **5.** (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 4 further comprising the step of:

2 making a snapshot of the first configuration tables when the copy is made, the  
 3 snapshot not being a copy of the first configuration tables but permitting detection of  
 4 changes in the first configuration tables; and  
 5 in the step of making a determination, the snapshot is used to make the  
 6 determination.

1 **6.** (original) The method set forth in claim 5 wherein:

2 in the step of making a determination, the snapshot is compared with the first  
 3 configuration tables.

1 **7.** (original) The method set forth in claim 4 wherein:

2 the step of making a copy of the first configuration tables is part of a step of  
 3 copying the database; and

4 the method further includes the step of testing the copied database with  
 5 configuration  $m+1$ .

1 **8.** (original) The method set forth in claim 4 wherein

2 the system performs the method under control of a user; and

3 the method further comprises the step of:

4 having any other user log off before the step of making a copy of the first  
 5 configuration tables.

1 **9.** (original) The method set forth in claim 8 further comprising the step of:

2 also having any other user log off before the step of making a determination.

1 **10.** (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein

2 the system performs the method under control of a user and

3 the method further comprises the steps performed when the comparison indicates  
 4 that the first configuration tables no longer define configuration  $m$  of:

5 notifying the user that the first configuration tables no longer define configuration  
 6  $m$ ; and

7           if the user so indicates, overwriting the first configuration tables with the second  
8 configuration tables.

1   **11.** (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:  
2           in the step of using the second configuration tables to modify the first  
3 configuration tables, the first configuration tables are modified record-by-record.

1   **12.** (original) The method set forth in claim 11 wherein  
2           the system performs the method under control of a user and  
3           the method further comprises the steps performed when the comparison indicates  
4 that the first configuration tables no longer define configuration *m* of:  
5           notifying the user that the first configuration tables no longer define configuration  
6 *m*; and  
7           if the user so indicates, overwriting the first configuration tables with the second  
8 configuration tables.

1   **13.** (original) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
2           getting an approval by a user of the system for the migration.

1   **14.** (original) The method set forth in claim 13 wherein:  
2           the step of getting the approval is performed prior to the step of making a  
3 determination.

1   **15.** (original) The method of claim 14 wherein:  
2           the step of getting the approval is performed immediately prior to the step of  
3 making a determination.

1   **16.** (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein  
2           the system performs the method under control of a user; and  
3           the method further comprises the step of:  
4           having any other user log off before the step of making a determination.

1   **17.** (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:  
2         the database further includes a configuration change tracking table; and  
3         in the step of using the second configuration tables to modify the first  
4   configuration tables, the modifications to the first configuration tables are recorded in the  
5   configuration change tracking table.

1   **18.** The method set forth in claim 17 wherein:  
2         the modifications are recorded in the configuration change table together with an  
3   indication that they were made during a migration from one configuration to another.

1   **19.** (original) Apparatus employed in a system having a processor and a database which  
2   includes first configuration tables that define a configuration  $m$  of the system to migrate  
3   the system to a configuration  $m+1$  thereof,  
4   the apparatus comprising:  
5         a copy of the first configuration tables; and  
6         a snapshot table which can be used by the processor to detect whether the first  
7   configuration tables still define configuration  $m$ ,  
8   the processor operating under control of a user of the system to modify the copy of the  
9   first configuration tables to produce second configuration tables that define configuration  
10    $m+1$ , compare the first configuration tables with the snapshot table to determine whether  
11   the first configuration tables still define configuration  $m$ , and if the first configuration  
12   tables do so, use the second configuration tables to modify the first configuration tables  
13   so that the first configuration tables define configuration  $m+1$ .

1   **20.** (original) The apparatus set forth in claim 19 wherein  
2         when the first configuration tables no longer define configuration  $m$ , the processor  
3   operates to notify the user thereof and to respond to an indication from the user to so do  
4   by overwriting the first configuration tables with the second configuration tables.

1   **21.** (original) The apparatus set forth in claim 19 further comprising:

2           a copy of the database, the copied database including the copy of the first  
3 configuration tables,  
4           the processor further operating under control of the user to test configuration  $m+1$   
5 using the second configuration tables and the copied database.

1   **22.** (original) The apparatus set forth in claim 19 wherein:

2           the processor operates under control of the user to make the snapshot table when  
3 the copy of the first configuration tables is made.

1   **23.** (original) The apparatus set forth in claim 19 wherein:

2           the processor operates under control of the user to log any other users of the  
3 database off before making the copy of the first configuration tables and also before  
4 comparing the first configuration tables with the snapshot table.

1   **24.** (original) The apparatus set forth in claim 19 further comprising:

2           a signoff table in the database which indicates one or more other users whose  
3 approval is required before the configuration  $m$  can be migrated to the configuration  $m+1$ ;  
4 and

5           the processor operates under control of the user to obtain approval from each of  
6 the other users before using the second configuration tables to modify the first  
7 configuration tables.

1   **25.** (original) The apparatus set forth in claim 19 further comprising:

2           a configuration change tracking table in the database; and  
3           the processor further recording the modifications to the first configuration tables  
4 in the configuration change tracking table.

1   **26.** (original) A data storage device, characterized in that:

2           the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor performs a  
3 method of migrating from configuration  $m$  of a system to a configuration  $m+1$  thereof, the  
4 system's configuration being defined by first configuration tables in a database and

5 the method comprising the steps of:  
6 making second configuration tables that define configuration  $m+1$ ;  
7 making a determination whether the first configuration tables still define configuration  
8  $m$ ; and  
9 if the first configuration tables still define configuration  $m$ , using the second  
10 configuration tables to modify the first configuration tables such that the first configuration  
11 tables define configuration  $m+1$ .